

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 19, 29, 34 and 36 are cancelled to simplify the issues remaining for consideration; independent claims 1, 5, 10, 15, 18, 28 and 32 are amended to better define the invention and more clearly distinguish over the cited prior art; and the dependent claims are amended where necessary to reflect changes in the parent claims.

The claims stand rejected on the basis of various combinations of *Wetzel 167, Wetzel 908, Jackson, Yoshida, et al., Walkinshaw et al., and Owesen.*

Each of the independent claims has herein been amended in a manner to clearly distinguish over the cited references taken singly or in any reasonable hypothetical combination. Specifically, each of the method claims now requires the step of collecting air from a plurality of spaced locations within the enclosed space, the locations being proximate a floor surface of the enclosed space and distributed over the area of the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire enclosed space proximate the floor surface, the collected air thereafter being delivered to a blower unit positioned in a central chamber positioned within the enclosed space, the collected air flowing from the enclosed space to the blower unit being subjected to a germicidal treatment whereafter the collected and germicidally treated air is discharged from the blower unit.

Similarly, each independent apparatus claim requires a plurality of conduits each having an outlet end communicating with the blower air inlet and an inlet end, the inlet ends of the conduits being positioned at spaced locations proximate the floor surface of the enclosed space, the inlet ends being distributed over the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire enclosed space proximate the floor surface in response to actuation of the blower, the air moving through the conduits from the enclosed space to the inlet of the blower unit being intercepted by a fungi killing zone established by a source of radiant energy.

By contrast, *Wetzel* 167, discloses a room air sterilizer mounted on the wall of the room; *Wetzel*, 908 discloses an overhead air conditioner unit configured to fit within a drop ceiling of a room to be conditioned; *Jackson* discloses a plurality of sequentially arranged blower units arranged to move air through a crawl space; *Yoshida* discloses the use of UV units in a crawl space but is devoid of any air handling; *Walkinshaw et al.* introduces air from outside of the enclosed space and exhaust air outside of the enclosed space and is devoid of any UV provision; and *Owesen* is devoid of any teaching of the concept of utilizing a plurality of spaced collection points distributed over the floor surface of the enclosed space for delivery of collected air to a central blower.

Accordingly, all of the claims are now believed to clearly distinguish over the cited prior art taken singly or in any reasonable hypothetical combination. If the Examiner feels that different claim terminology would better define the invention or better distinguish over the cited prior art, she is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney at the number shown below in an effort to agree upon an Examiner's Amendment to allow the application to pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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